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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/560,427

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Masazumi Yamada

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EXAMINER

STRONCZER, RYAN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2425

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/560,427

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan Stronczer

Art Unit

2425

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 22, 24 and 26-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 22, 24, 26-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 22, 24, and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 22, 24, 26-28, and 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda et al. (US Pat. No.: 5,204,662) and further in view of Osakabe et al. (US Pat. No.: 5,666,363) and Kogane et al. (Pub. No.: US 2001/0056579).

As to the switching device of claim 1, Fig. 4 of Oda teaches a system in which a plurality of input devices (VTR I&II, laser disc player, BS tuner, etc) are connected to a display device through a system containing a system controller and memory which allow the user to select the desired input to be displayed. Oda further teaches a system for allowing a multiple input devices to be connected to an output device and for selectively switching between said input devices. While Fig. 1b of Oda teaches a control unit and memory for storing formation related to the input devices, it does not teach explicitly teach assigning a physical address that is generated by the output destination device,

as is recited in amended claim 1. In an analogous art, Kogane teaches a method for managing a plurality of input devices by a central control unit. Specifically, Kogane teaches:

The control server 5 further includes a name table represents relation between addresses and name of camera units 1 to dynamically assign the physical address every power on. That is, when the control server 5 is turned on, the control server 5 broadcast a response request. Every camera units 1, the data storing terminal 4, and the display terminal 4 responds this and successively transmits domain names. The control server 5 assigns the physical addresses managed by the control server 5 to the camera units 1, the data storing terminal 4, and the display terminal 4. That is, the control server 5 stores the domain names with respect to physical address as the name table 72. [0047]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the name table 72 and address allocation of Kogane's server into the control unit of Oda's device to to make it easier for users of Oda's system to manage their devices. Such a modification representing a combination of known elements that would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. The control server disclosed by Kogane teaches the address setup unit and outputting unit newly recited in amended claim 1. As to the recited read-out channels and outputting unit to output the status of the display device, Osakabe teaches a system similar to that taught by Kogane in which the system adds a header to inter-device communications which includes device ID/address, operation command data, and automatic status transmission (Fig. 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the address table and transmission header taught by Kogane and Osakabe into the system taught by Oda to make it easier for users of Oda's system to manage their devices.

As to claim 26, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated herein; the recited control signal lines are taught by Fig. 4b of Oda as lines a-h connecting the various peripheral devices to the system.

As to claim 2, Fig. 10 of Osakabe (cited above) teaches that the destination device can communicate an automatic status transmission to the selected source device.

As to claim 3, Kawamura teaches that the system automatically assigns node ID numbers which are equivalent to physical addresses for the devices in the network automatically and stores said addresses in system memory [0008, 0025].

As to claims 27 and 28, Col. 10 of Osakabe teaches that the header including an ID, address, command data, and status information (see Fig. 10) is used to enable bi-directional communication between input video device (e.g., a digital VTR) and an output display device. Osakabe further teaches that said header is used to indicate in the source device is issuing a request or is waiting for a response to a request from the input device, which is equivalent to the recited "indicating a status of the output destination device."

As to claims 22 and 24, practicing the combination of Oda in view of Kawamura and Osakabe, as applied to claim 1 above, would have rendered obvious the recited method.

As to claims 7 and 33, the recited control signal lines are taught by Fig. 4b of Oda as lines a-h connecting the various peripheral devices to the system. As to the recited power supply control unit, Oda teaches that the user can use a remote control to

issue commands to the input devices through the primary system. Oda teaches that the command data can include *"manipulation contents of 'PLAY,' 'ON,' and so forth"* (col. 5/33-34).

Claims 8-9 and 34-35 are rejected by Fig. 3 and Col. 5 of Oda as cited above with respect to claim 7.

As to claim 36, Oda teaches that the system is operable to select a video signal generated by one of the plurality of input devices and Osakabe as cited above teaches that the output destination device communicates a status information to the selected input device prior to selecting the video signal from said input.

Claims 4-6 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda in view of Osakabe and Kogane as applied to claims 1 and 26 above, and further in view of Davies et al. (US Pat. No.: 7,360,235).

As to claims 4 and 29, Fig. 4b of Oda teaches the recited control signal transmission lines, and while turning off the output device would inherently turn off the switching device, Oda does not explicitly teach that the switching device can be turned off independently of the output device. Davies teaches an analogous system in which multiple input and output devices can be controlled from a single device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to embody the switching device taught by Oda, Osakabe, and Kogane, as analyzed above w/r/t claims 1 and 26, in the set top terminal (STT) taught by Davies. This would have been desirable so as to allow consumers who already own a television to manage their peripheral devices using the

method taught by Oda without having to purchase a new television. Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known in the art for a STT to have the capability to be turned off by the user.

As to claims 5-6 and 30-31, Examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art to turn on or shut off a device by applying a pull-up or ground voltage, respectively, to the device in question.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Stronczer whose telephone number is (571) 270-

3756. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (EDT), Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian T. Pendleton can be reached on (571) 272-7527. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ryan Stronczer/
Examiner, Art Unit 2425

/Brian T. Pendleton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2425